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Things to Know About
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- HAMILTON PARKS -

"THINGS TO KNOW"

STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

by
*Mac MacKinnon**

The Forestry Section, Parks Division, Public Works Department plant bareroot trees on the City and Regional Road allowances in front of residential properties on request of the property owner. The planting of the tree is co-ordinated with the property owner and includes soil mixture, tree stake and tie, and replacement of the tree if it dies or is vandalized.

The importance of trees in an urban environment has been well documented; they provide shade and shelter thus reducing heating/cooling costs, reduce pollution, provide habitat for birds and enhance the aesthetics of the streetscape.

Tree planting takes place in early spring (March, April, May) and late fall (October, November) weather permitting. The City plants 1,000 trees per year. When the yearly quota is filled, the incoming requests are placed on next season's planting list.

Trees are planted on a basis of one per lot or alternately on the average one per 36 feet. If the house is on a corner lot, additional trees may be planted on the side of the property.

All plantings are located by the utilities, and are selected from species which are appropriate for the climate, soil, winter salt conditions and any site specific conditions which may impact on the longevity of the tree.

At the time of planting, the property owner receives a brochure with instructions for tree care. Maintenance will be performed by the Forestry Section during the Grid Trimming program. The stake will be removed when the tree no longer requires the support.

With increased awareness in environmental concerns and activities such as Earth Day and Arbor Week, interest in the tree planting program has increased tremendously in the past few years. This is a positive step towards maintaining our Urban Forest.

* *Mac MacKinnon is the General Foreman, Forestry, Horticulture Section*

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